

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/801,566

Examiner

Emily I. Nalven

Applicant(s)

KWON, YONG-CHOL

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3744

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 8/1/07.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1,3-17,19,20,22,23 and 25-29.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

DETAILED ACTION

Reasons for Allowance

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance. The prior art of record fails to anticipate or make obvious that an external plate section is detachably coupled to a front surface with a recess part that operates as a dispenser of water or ice as claimed in the independent claims 3, 7-8, 11, 19-20, 22-23 and 25 and an external plate with a recess in the refrigerator door that is inserted into mounting slots on mounting frames of the refrigerator door as claimed in independent claim 1.

Unger (US Patent No. 5,526,854) teaches a refrigerator door (13) with a recess formed in the door (see Fig. 2 and col 3 lines 39-40 and col 4 lines 1-3). Within the door Unger teaches an ice maker (16) (col 3 lines 45-46) and an insulation layer (19) (see Fig. 3) disposed between an outer case (28) (see Fig. 3) and an inner case (29) (see Fig. 3). Unger also teaches an actuating lever (46) installed in the recess section of the housing for discharge of water or ice from the dispenser so as to open or close the ports according to the actuating force of the actuating lever (col 4 lines 28-60). However, Unger does not teach an external plate section that is detachable from the outer case as taught by this application.

Zeligson (US Patent No. 6,067,738) teaches an external plate section (53, 55) (see Fig. 3) detachably coupled to the front surface of an outer case to form an external appearance of a refrigerator door (15) (see Fig. 1). However, Zeligson does not teach that the external plate section has a recess for a dispenser to dispense water or ice as taught by this application. Additionally, Zeligson simply teaches that the external plate is

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a sheet of plastic, aluminum, sheet metal, magnetic material and a lens (col 3 lines 20-23).

Lee (US Patent No. 5,881,930) teaches a guide bar (512) guiding the movement of an actuating lever (540) (col 4 lines 62-67 and col 5 lines 1-5) for use in a refrigerator compartment door (col 5 lines 4-5). However, Lee fails to teach the refrigerator assembly with a door, an external plate that is detachable or a water/ice dispenser on the refrigerator door as taught by this application.

Although it is well known in the art to have a refrigerator with a water and ice dispenser in the outside door, there is no teaching in the prior art of record that would, reasonable and absent impermissible hindsight, motivate one having ordinary skill in the art to so modify the teaching of Unger, Zeligson and Lee to add an external plate removably coupled to the outer case and inserted into mounting slots that contains a recess for a water/ice dispenser.

Any comments considered necessary by the applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and to avoid processing delays should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Emily Iris Nalven whose telephone number is 571-272-3045. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Thursday 8 AM - 5:30 PM and on alternate Fridays 8 AM – 4:30 PM.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisors, Cheryl J. Tyler can be reached on 571-272-4834 or Frantz Jules can be reached on 571-272-6681. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Emily Iris Nalven
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October 21, 2007


CHERYL TYLER
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER